

# Croydon Renewal update

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Leader of the Council

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Chief Executive

# Our new priorities

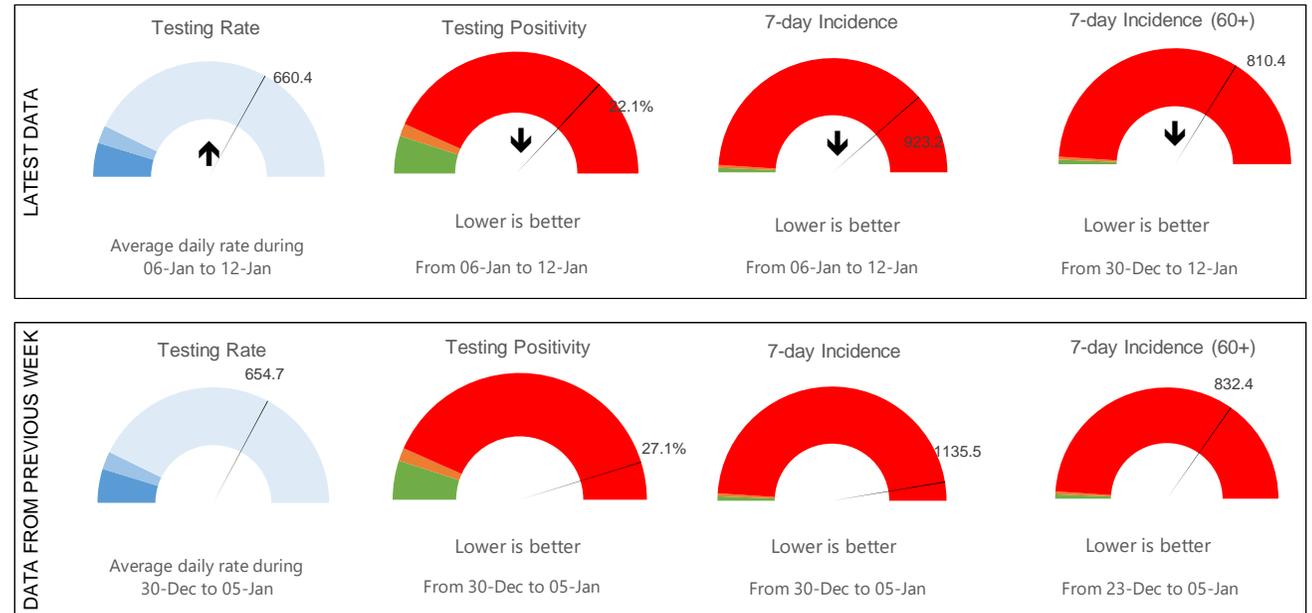
- We will live within our means, balance the books and provide value for money for our residents.
- We will focus on tackling ingrained inequality and poverty in the borough. We will follow the evidence to tackle the underlying causes of inequality and hardship, like structural racism, environmental injustice and economic injustice.
- We will focus on providing the best quality core service we can afford. First and foremost, providing social care services that keep our most vulnerable residents safe and healthy. And to keep our streets clean and safe. To ensure we get full benefit from every pound we spend, other services in these areas will only be provided where they can be shown

## The national context: an ongoing and enduring pandemic

- Worsened in recent weeks
- Vaccination rollout and expansion of test and trace
- Increased enforcement role for local government
- Resilience impact on staff and services (prioritising services to most vulnerable)
- Economic impact on businesses
- Financial impact on residents

# The national context: an ongoing and enduring pandemic

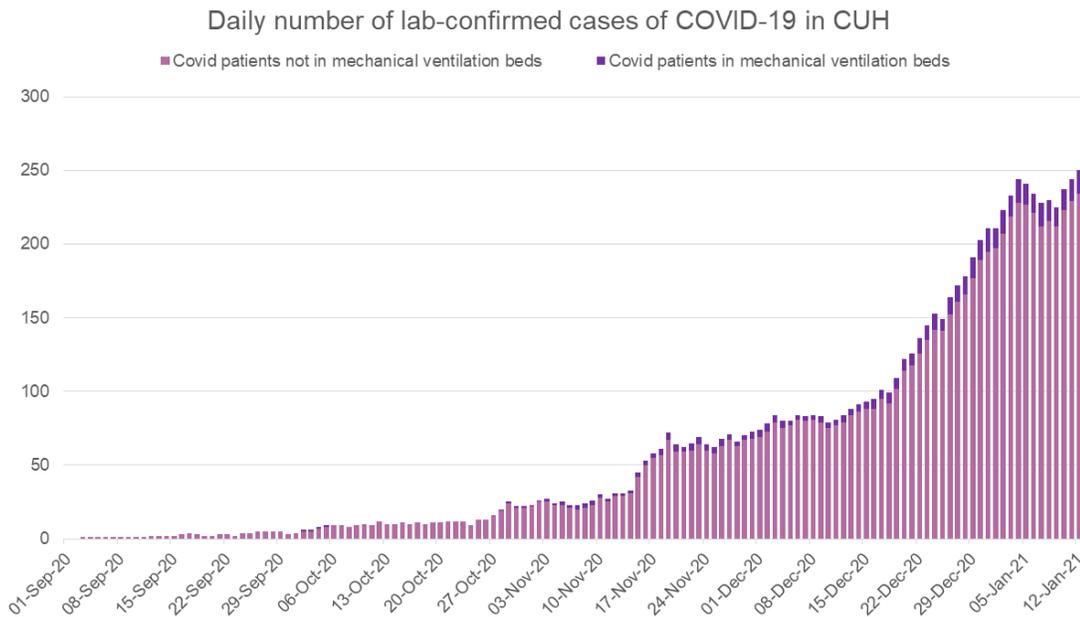
The latest national lockdown is starting to cause the number of new covid-positive cases to fall in Croydon as across London. This is driven by lower positivity rates and not reduced testing.



Despite this fall, the weekly incidence rate is still very high with latest figures of 923.3 per 100,000 – the 13<sup>th</sup> highest rate in the country (by UTLA), this is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest rate in London

# The national context: an ongoing and enduring pandemic

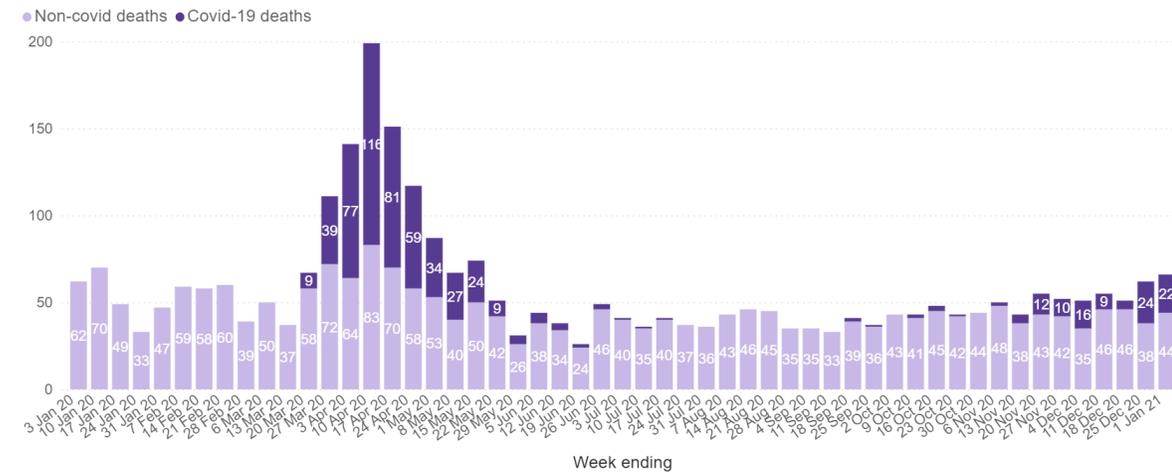
- The number of patients in Croydon University Hospital has not yet started to fall, almost half of all beds are occupied by covid-positive patients
- Deaths involving covid-19 are starting to increase



## REGISTERED DEATHS

This data is updated weekly on a Tuesday.

To date (1 Jan 21) there have been a total of 612 deaths of Croydon residents involving COVID-19

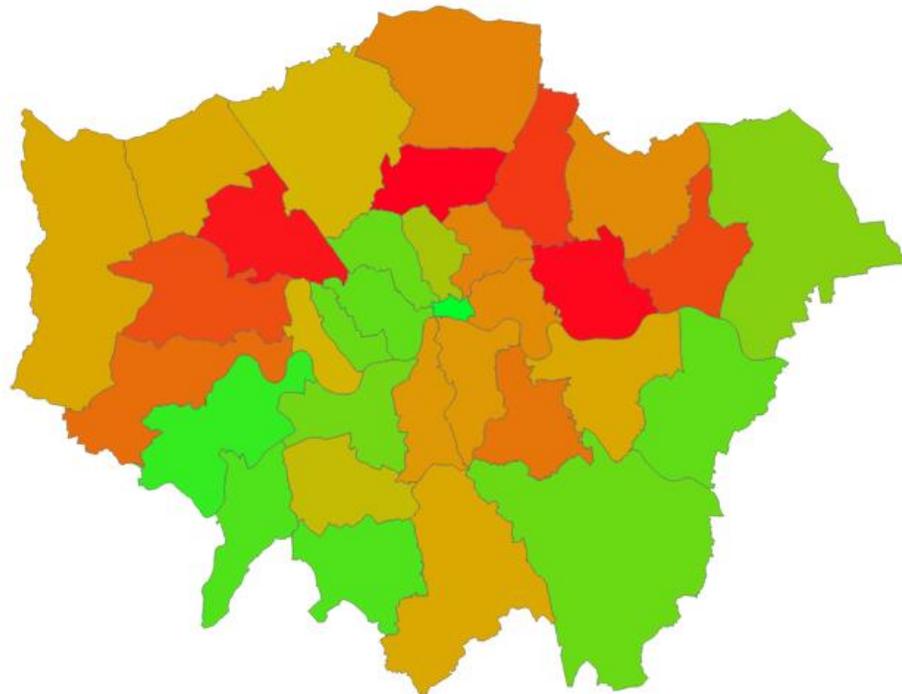


Data last updated on: 12 Jan 2021

Death data is published on the ONS website [death registrations & occurrences by LA](https://www.ons.gov.uk/death-registrations)

# The national context: increase in Universal Credit claims

Change in proportion of working age population claiming universal credit (Mar-Nov 2020)

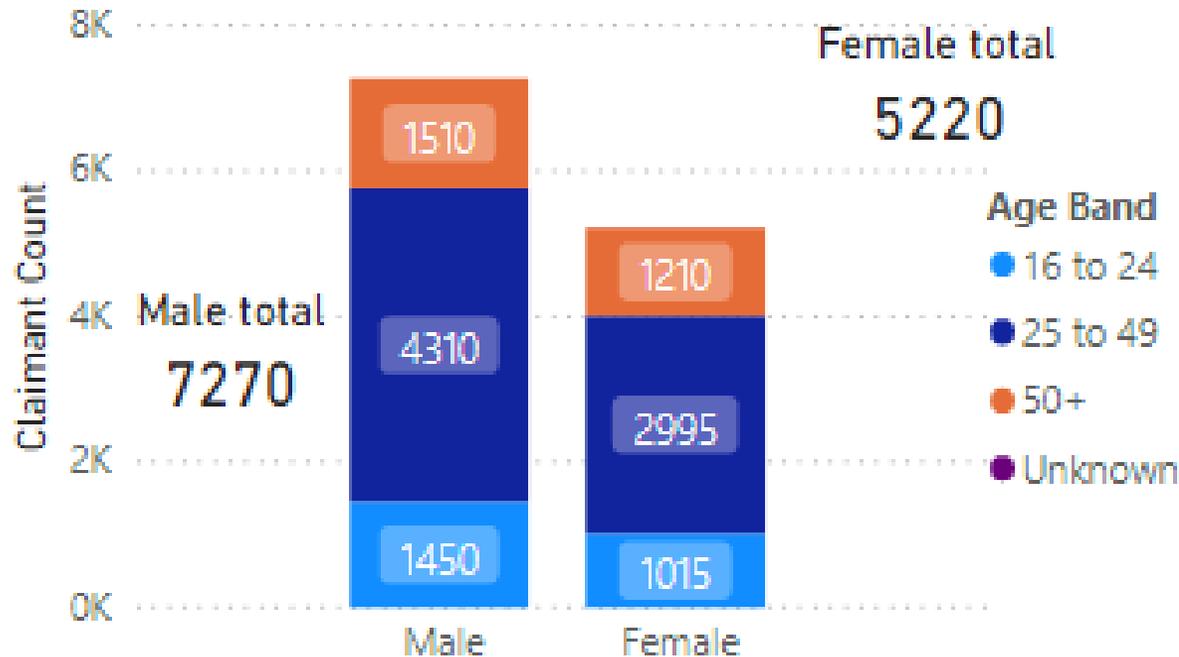


Low %  High %

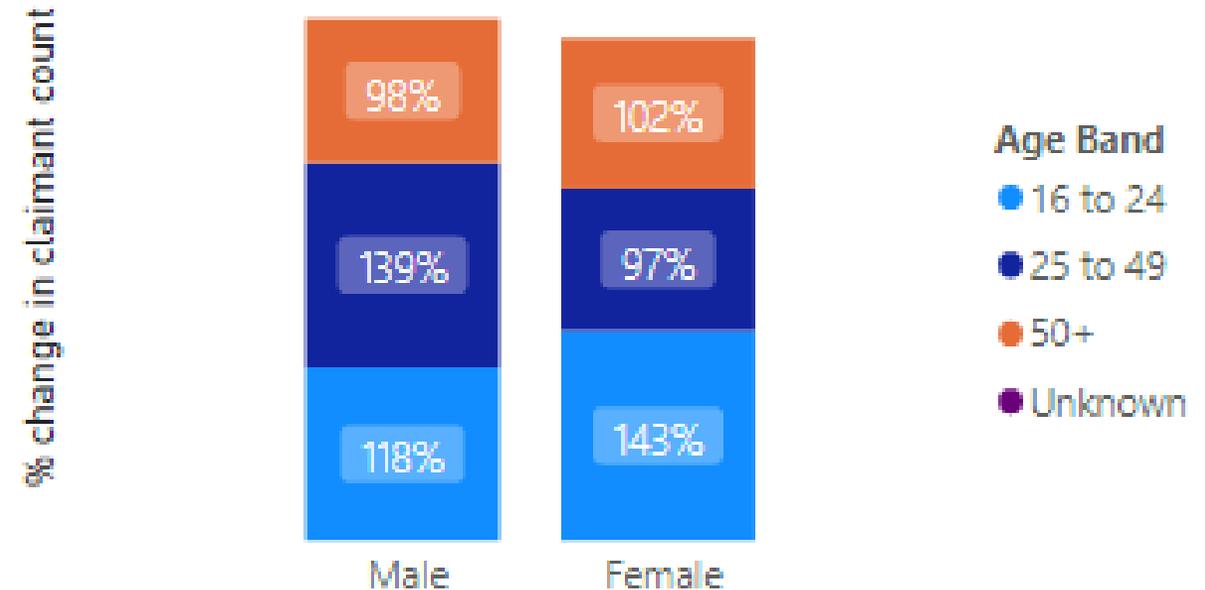
	NOV Count	Change from MAR 2020	March % of WAP	NOV % of WAP	Change from MAR 2020
Croydon	23,325	+12,490	4.4	9.4	+5.0pp
London	491,290	+304,340	3.0	8.1	+5.1pp
UK	2,631,275	+1,362,665	3.0	6.3	+3.3pp

# The national context: who has been most affected by lockdown (March-November 2020)

Change in Claimant Count (Mar-Nov 2020) in Croydon. Broken down by Gender and age band



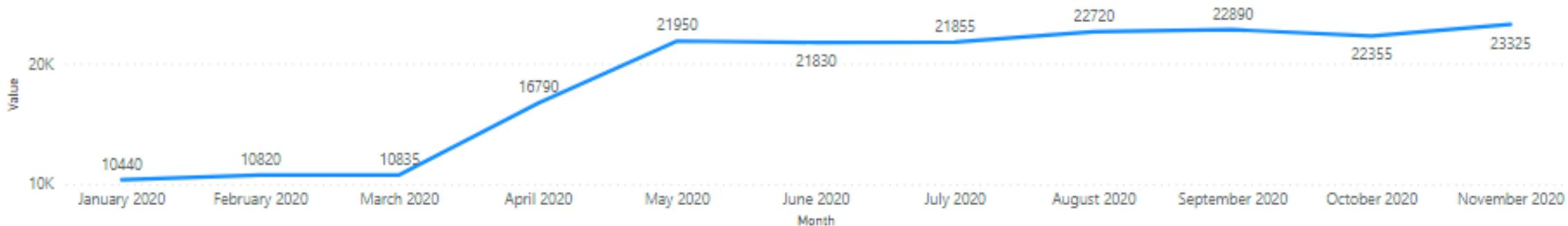
% Change in Claimant Count (Mar-Nov 2020) in Croydon. Broken down by Gender and age band



# The national context: job retention scheme

	Nov Furloughed employments	Eligible employments	Nov Take up %	July Furloughed Employments	July Take up %
<b>Croydon</b>	15,700	190,500	8%	53,300	28%
<b>London</b>	431,200	4,331,300	10%	1,291,600	30%
<b>England</b>	1,897,400	25,577,800	7%	7,600,900	30%

Croydon Claimant Count by month



# What is Croydon Renewal Improvement Plan – quick recap

- Deliver fundamental transformation of the Council's systems of internal control, governance and management where required to underpin financial recovery
- Provide assurance against a number of key issues, including:
  - External Auditor's Report in the Public Interest (RIPI)
  - Strategic review of the Council's companies
  - Improving the Council's general fund and earmarked reserves
  - Improving the Council's governance arrangements
  - Implementing the recommendations of the independent finance review
  - Any recommendations from the MHCLG non- statutory Rapid Review team

## Key updates:

- The Council submitted our capitalisation request to MHCLG on 15 December
  - Regular discussions continuing
  - MHCLG Improvement panel set up to assess submission
  - Circa 25 Councils in discussions with MHCLG regarding financial challenges
  - Estimated 10-12 Councils seeking capitalisation approval from MHCLG and HM Treasury
  - Government considering all requests individually, but also considering sector wide implications

## Improvement Board / external support

- Croydon Council is committed to establishing an Independent external Improvement Board to provide robust challenge and support
- Consultation underway regarding terms of reference and membership (report back to cabinet in February, Council in March)
- In addition to the Independent external Improvement Board, anticipate MHCLG will appoint additional external advisors to their own panel

## Review of Companies - actions

- Work continues on strategic review of companies and other entities
- Report to come to Cabinet in February with key recommendations
- Approach agreed through discussions with Scrutiny & Overview Committee and GPAC to seek External Audit value for money review of Fairfield Halls refurbishment

## Delivering the improvement

- Croydon Renewal Improvement Plan incorporates 434 projects / actions across 11 programmes
- Mobilising projects – prioritising MTFS items first
- New reporting systems developed to support monitoring of progress and risks which will include improved reporting on Council wide performance
- Further budget challenge process to identify additional savings
- Asset review to confirm where the Council can reduce capitalisation request through disposals

## Key reports :

- There are a number of reviews / reports that the Council have been / are being carried out:-
  - Independent investigation by Richard Penn
  - MHCLG rapid review
  - Centre for Governance & Scrutiny (which is expected to inform Scrutiny work plan)
- Each will have recommendations to incorporate into the Croydon Renewal Improvement Plan

## The next 6 months

<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff consultations continue</li><li>• Key reports (previous slide) received</li><li>• Continue budget development</li><li>• MHCLG capitalisation direction decision/update</li><li>• Fairfield Hall external audit commences</li><li>• Staff and Member training plans are being developed</li></ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget setting reports, including Capital, Treasury, MTFS, MRP, revenue and capitalisation</li><li>• Brick by Brick future options report to Cabinet</li><li>• Improvement Board terms of reference and membership approved</li></ul>

## The next 6 months (continued)

<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget and restructure decisions</li><li>• Implementation of decision on structure proposals</li><li>• Directorate planning completed</li><li>• Draft corporate performance reports</li><li>• Improvement Board established</li></ul>
<b>April - June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New corporate performance reporting cycle starts:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finance monitoring</li><li>• Corporate performance</li><li>• Programme delivery</li></ul></li></ul>

# Thank you